



# Aide memoire and key actions resulting from the third meeting under the collective arrangement

## Agenda Item 1 and overview of Initial discussions

1.1 The third meeting under the collective arrangement was held 10-11 May 2017, London, UK, at the kind invitation of NEAFC.

1.2 The meeting was attended by the President of NEAFC, Vice-chair of OSPAR, OSPAR Biodiversity Committee Vice-chair and representatives of OSPAR and NEAFC Contracting Parties. The Secretariats of the two organisations were also present; a representative of ICES participated as observer. Phil Weaver, SeaScape gave a presentation. A list of participants is at Annex 1.

1.3 Apologies were received from Secretariats of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Seabed Authority (ISA) International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Environment (UNEP) and the Arctic Council.

1.4 The NEAFC President and Vice-chair of OSPAR welcomed the meeting to NEAFC, in particular noting the representation of OSPAR and NEAFC Contracting Parties.

1.5 Laura Piriz, OSPAR Vice-chair and Mr Jacques Verborgh, NEAFC President were elected as co-chairs for the meeting.

1.6 In their opening remarks, the co-chairs emphasised the significance of the meeting both for the organisations involved, for national coordination and within a global context. The collective arrangement was of great interest in other regions and in the ongoing discussions in the UN context related to marine issues.

1.7 The agenda was adopted as presented (See Annex 2).

## Agenda Item 2 - General information on participants to the collective arrangement

2.1 Presentations were made on NEAFC's and OSPAR's aims and objectives. The presentations triggered a number of questions. Issues discussed included:

- the progress in establishing RFMOs worldwide and how the newer RFMOs were increasing their capacity;
- A query on the history and rationale of OSPAR Convention area in relation to (potential) contracting parties such as Russia (a party to NEAFC);

2.2 From other competent international organisations relating to the North-East Atlantic: Discussions were focused on improving the participation of other international organisations in the collective arrangement and the aim of the arrangement with regard to their competences. A written statement from the ISA was presented. Reference was made to the first meeting under the collective arrangement and the continued progress that had been noted. Issues discussed included:

- extending invitations to IMO, IWC, ISA, ICCAT and NASCO again;

2.3 Regarding other national developments: NEAFC gave a presentation on the ongoing negotiations within the UN on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (so called 'BBNJ process'). OSPAR gave a presentation on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 14 (to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development). The OSPAR Vice-chair provided information on the upcoming high-level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal, hosted by the Governments of Sweden and Fiji and the aim of the conference to register a series of voluntary commitments by different organisations in implementing SDG14. Issues discussed included:

- Detailed discussion on the BBNJ process; the upcoming preparatory meeting in New York in July 2017 was mentioned, which would aim to make preparations for the diplomatic conference in 2019, where decisions on a new implementing agreement under the UN Law of the Sea were expected to be made;
- It was mentioned that some UN State Parties had underlined during the negotiations the importance of the regional perspective in any resulting biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction implementation agreement;
- The importance of strengthening the regional seas conventions and RFMO's was underlined;
- FAO's important role in cooperation and coordination regarding fisheries, including relating to regional fisheries management organisations was highlighted as an example of a useful process. This was in the context of RFMOs roles as independent bodies that could take regional actions with a legal mandate under international law, including the UN Fish Stocks Agreement;
- On the SDG 14 process, some expressed the wish to add the achievement of the collective arrangement to the SDG voluntary commitments website, to give the arrangement visibility.

2.4 Regarding relevant national developments: Portugal informed the meeting on their two MPAs, which were superjacent to international waters and national waters, and covered 10% of the Portuguese marine area.

## Agenda Item 3 – the collective arrangement

### *Information on Annex 1 of the collective arrangement*

3.1 The Chair of OSPAR's Intersessional Correspondence Group on MPAs (ICG-MPA) gave a presentation on the OSPAR MPA report, including a potential proposal from Birdlife International that may be tabled at OSPAR's intersessional correspondence group on MPAs in 2017 for a new ABNJ MPA for an area important for seabirds. NEAFC gave a presentation on behalf of FAO on the ABNJ Deep Seas Project, which started in 2014 and is a 5-year project (see Annex III). Subsequent discussion explored the way area three aspects of MPAs are described and developed, that is total area coverage, ecological and network goals and management processes applied.

3.2 NEAFC made a presentation on the Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem regulatory process under NEAFC.

3.3 Both organisations confirmed that no amendments to Annex 1 of the collective arrangement had been made since the previous year's meeting.

### *Update to Annex 2 on the listing of MOUs and other bilateral agreements*

3.4 Both organisations confirmed that no amendments to Annex 2 of the collective arrangement had been made since the previous year's meeting.

### *Expansion of the collective arrangement to include other competent organisations/ reflections from observing competent organisations*

3.5 It has always been the intention that the collective arrangement should include a wide group of competent international organisations, so the aim continued to be to expand it to others, with priority

given to the International Seabed Authority (ISA), the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

3.6 It was noted that both NEAFC and OSPAR needed to coordinate Contracting Party support for the collective arrangement to the above organisations, including liaising with and updating the Secretariats.

### *Reflections from observing competent organisations*

3.7 NEAFC provided information on the Sustainable Oceans Initiative, global dialogue meeting, October 2016, Seoul, Republic of Korea, which had been organised by the CBD and the Republic of Korea. This has been a successful engagement between 15 regional seas organisations and 15 regional fisheries bodies. Planning was currently under way for another global dialogue meeting in 2018, perhaps focusing on implementation of SDG 14.

3.8 Norway provided information on the Arctic Council Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation (TFAMC) with broad mandate to assess the ways in which Arctic states are presently cooperating on issues affecting the Arctic Ocean and to consider future needs for strengthened cooperation on Arctic marine areas. The TFAMC would make recommendations to Ministers in 2017.

## Agenda Item 4 – issues under §6 of the collective arrangement

### *Information on science and use of scientific activities (§6a):*

4.1 NEAFC gave a presentation on its management of fisheries to ensure the long-term conservation and optimum utilisation of the fishery resources in the Convention Area. This includes NEAFC adopting measures to protect other parts of the marine ecosystem from potential negative impacts of fisheries. It was underlined that there was a “firewall” between the scientific role of ICES and the management/policy role of NEAFC. The presentation included information on deep sea shark species and management actions for deep sea species agreed by NEAFC based on ICES advice.

4.2 OSPAR gave a presentation on the draft implementation plan developed by the working group on protection of species and habitats for OSPAR listed threatened species and habitats, with a focus on the 3 deep sea shark species OSPAR has listed since 2008. Issues discussed included:

- Potential for joint advice from ICES to OSPAR and NEAFC on deep sea sharks;
- Potential cooperation on reducing bycatch and Abandoned [D] Lost Fishing Gear;
- Potential cooperation with ICCAT on oceanic shark species.

4.3 ICES gave a presentation on ICES’s work and on its scientific advice to NEAFC and OSPAR.

4.4 Phil Weaver from SeaScape Consultants, gave a presentation on the SEMPIA project which explores the potential environmental impacts of deep sea mining for the marine environment and on fisheries. It was highlighted that a Discussion Paper on the development and drafting of Regulations on Exploitation for Mineral Resources in the Area (Environmental Matters) had been put out for public consultation by ISA. Issues discussed by the meeting included:

- The potential extent of plumes of debris/dust released to the water column and the potential impacts on marine ecosystems;
- Impact on pelagic fisheries from the plume and impact of the seabed;
- The need to continue to engage with ISA, including under the collective arrangement, was emphasised in light of the need explore potential marine and fisheries impacts in the light of development of deep sea mining;
- Contracting Parties were encouraged by Prof Weaver to participate in the consultation going on presently.

### *Information on proposed human uses (§6 b)*

4.5 OSPAR gave a presentation on the OSPAR ecosystem approach to managing human activities. This included OSPAR work on cumulative effects, the Intermediate Assessment of the state of the marine environment, and indicators of pressure and ecosystem state.

4.6 Issues discussed included:

- The use of AIS and VMS/Logbook data to identify potential fisheries pressures;
- Other pressure layers such as marine litter and the NEAFC initiative to collate information on lost and abandoned gear;
- OSPAR highlighted its continuing interest in NEAFC information on ADLFG to help inform the implementation of the OSPAR Regional Action Plan on Marine litter

### *Cooperation on Environmental Impact Assessments etc (§6c).*

4.7 It was noted that where environmental or strategic environmental impact assessments of relevance are occurring information on areas affected, the types of activities occurring and background information should be shared.

- The potential for OSPAR/NEAFC to work on helping develop a standard for environmental assessment under the International Standards Organisation was briefly discussed.

### *Consulting on respective objectives (§6d)*

4.8 This issue was discussed under the earlier agenda items, in particular implementation of respective actions on deep sea sharks by the two organisations under their differing mandates. It was considered for instance that whereas OSPAR and NEAFC had similar objectives in respect of conservation of certain deep sea shark species, a common request to ICES for scientific advice might enable some common understanding of the issues related to the species and cooperation on the respective actions.

### *Exchange of data etc. (§6e)*

4.8 A paper was tabled setting out the on-going OSPAR/HELCOM/ICES data calls to provide VMS and log book data to map fisheries pressures in the OSPAR convention area.

- In discussion, NEAFC re-emphasised the constraints on sharing data collected by NEAFC or its Contracting Parties strictly for monitoring, control and surveillance purposes. Contracting Parties were nevertheless encouraged to submit data to ICES under the separate call to national fisheries administrations for anonymised data voluntarily offered to ICES under the HELCOM/OSPAR/ICES data call.

### *Superjacent Areas (§6f)*

- This issue was not discussed in detail as it was addressed by the update by Portugal earlier in the meeting.

## **Agenda Item 5 - Communication**

5.1 The Secretariats would continue to coordinate on matters relating to the implementation of the collective arrangement.

5.2 Opportunities to present the collective arrangement were identified for the upcoming high-level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal and Sustainable Oceans Initiative Global Partnership.

5.3 The Secretariats were requested to increase efforts to communicate with other relevant competent organisations including via existing MoUs or other bilateral arrangements. Contracting Party representatives agreed to increase communication with their counterparts working with the appropriate organisations.

## Agenda Item 6 - Reporting of this meeting and future arrangements

6.1 This aide memoire serves as a report of the meeting and will be made available via OSPAR and NEAFC websites.

6.2 The participants concluded that the meeting had been successful in achieving its objectives, welcoming the active engagement of those Contracting Parties present. It was agreed to build on the momentum with a fourth meeting in 2018, the date and venue to be arranged. Germany would consider hosting the meeting. If no Contracting Party offers to host the next meeting, it will take place in the NEAFC office in London.

The following points were noted with respect to reflections for the meeting and how to progress this work:

- NEAFC and OSPAR Secretariat would contact IMO, ISA, ICCAT and NASCO for participation at the Fourth Collective Arrangement meeting, highlighting the importance of their participation;
- Sweden would propose to NASCO to present the collective arrangement at the upcoming NASCO meeting.
- OSPAR to submit a document to the NEAFC Permanent Committee on Management and Science on any potential enhancements on NEAFC advice requests on deep sea sharks from ICES.
- OSPAR species and habitats Recommendations implementation group invited to take into account the NEAFC list of shark species not authorised for targeted fishery and identify species of conservation concern, noting the ICES advice on which the NEAFC measures are based.
- OSPAR Recommendations implementation group invited to take into account ICES advice to NEAFC on deep sea sharks and ICES's work from the ICES Elasmobranch Working Group.
- It was suggested that an expert from the ICES elasmobranch working group would be invited to attend the OSPAR Recommendations implementation group.

## Agenda Item 7 - Any other business

7.1 The Ex-President of NEAFC invited OSPAR to note the approaches of the performance review process that NEAFC and other RFMOS had undertaken to help them in their organisational development etc.



**NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC  
FISHERIES COMMISSION**  
*Managing Fisheries in the North-East Atlantic*



**OSPAR  
COMMISSION**

**COLLECTIVE ARRANGEMENT  
LONDON, 10-11 May 2017**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**CHAIRS:**

**Joint Chair:** PIRIZ, Laura – OSPAR Commission Vice-Chair

**Joint Chair:** VERBORGH, Jacques - NEAFC President

**NEAFC Secretary** – ÁSMUNDSSON, Stefán

**OSPAR Executive Secretary** - CAMPBELL, Darius

**OSPAR Deputy Secretary** – MOGENSEN, Charlotte

BAIN, Alasdair - UK

IMISLUND, Helene - Norway

JENNINGS, Simon – ICES

JOHANSEN, Áki – Faroe Islands

KALOGIROU Stefan - Sweden

LENGRAND, François - France

LØBACH, Terje – Norway

MARQUES, José Manuel – Portugal

MIRGAUX, Sophie - Belgium

ÓSKARSSON, Þórður Ægir - Iceland

PAARDEKOOOPER, Joost – EC

SAMPSON, Harry – UK

TAEUBER, Andreas Christian - Germany

TOURTOIS, Benoit - France

VIKANES, Ingrid – Norway

VIS, Jeroen – Vice-Chair of OSPAR's BDC

von NORDHEIM, Henning - Germany and convenor of ICG-MPA

WILLIAMS Johán H. – FAO/UNEP/CBD

**Guest Presenter**

WEAVER, Phil